

JAMPACT News: Weekly Update 8-28-03

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JAMPACT Current News and Updates

COMMUNITY EVENTS - RECAP

The Flag Raising Ceremony in Edison, New Jersey on Saturday, August was truly wonderful. From folk singers singing songs like 'Carry Ackee guh a Linstead Market' to a creative dancer, Lawino Johnson, who did a moving piece to Bob Marley's "Redemption Song" and poet, Andrene Bonner who did one of Ms. Lou's poems, which was very well received--she even had audience members taking pictures with her after the event.

This was hosted by Council Woman Elise Foster Dublin of Highland Park, New Jersey, Governor James E. McGreevey and the United Caribbean American Network of New Jersey (UCAN-NJ). The keynote speaker was Hon. Minister Education, Youth and Culture Maxine Henry Wilson who emphasized that Jamaicans, no matter where they are in the world, are resilient people, they are not easily undaunted. We make an impact sometimes to the point of change.

UCAN....UDID!!! :) On behalf of JAMPACT, I would like to thank you for the invite to your Flag raising Ceremony. Congratulations on a well planned and executed program. I enjoyed the entire event!...From the decorations, performances, speakers up to the actual raising of the Jamaican flag. And the event was concluded with a lovely reception.

Again, Congrats to UCAN. --Warmest wishes, Camille T. Barrett (Interim Vice President)

The Community Education Forum "Diaspora: Challenges and Prospects" organized by the Jamaican Consulate, on Friday, August 22nd at John Jay College, featured panelists Hon. Maxine Henry Wilson, Minister of Education Youth and Culture, Hon. Dennis Walcott, Deputy Mayor in charge of education for the City of New York, as well as Ms. Diana Grant, representative from Education Initiative (IEI) and Union of Jamaican Alumni Association (UJAA), President Ms. Barbara Richards.

The Education symposium was well attended and each panelist spoke passionately of current initiatives that they are currently involved in. However, below are comments from JAMPACT members and friends who were in attendance.